

Mayor's Preschool Plan FAQ

The Mayor's Preschool Plan

- *What is the Mayor's Preschool Plan?*
 - In July 2014, Mayor Ballard announced the Mayor's Preschool Plan as part of his Education and Public Safety initiative to fight crime.
 - It proposes investing \$50 million over five years through public-private investments to make high-quality preschool affordable and accessible.
 - The plan can be broken down into two programs: 1) the Supplemental Preschool Scholarship program and 2) the Early Childhood Provider Grant program
 - The [United Way of Central Indiana \(UWCI\)](#) will work in partnership with the [Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning \(OECOSL\)](#) to oversee the plan.

Supplemental Preschool Scholarship program

- *What is the Supplemental Preschool Scholarship program?*
 - The Supplemental Preschool Scholarship program provides scholarships to quality preschools for low- and middle-income families in Indianapolis.
 - Children can receive a half-day (\$2,500) or a full-day (\$6,800) scholarship
- *What are the eligibility requirements?*
 - 3- and 4-year-old children entering preschool
 - Living at or under 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL)
 - Residents of Marion County
 - Choosing an eligible provider
- *What is an eligible provider?*
 - Eligible providers are defined in House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1004 as a:
 - Public school, including a charter school
 - Child care center licensed under IC 12-17.2-4
 - Child care home licensed under IC 12-17.2-5
 - Child care ministry registered under IC 12-17.2-6
 - All must meet standards set as Level 3 or 4 Paths to QUALITY™ ratings OR
 - Be a school accredited by the state board of education or a national or regional accreditation agency that is recognized by the state board of education
 - Providers will need to apply to OECOSL to be deemed eligible
- *What is National Accreditation?*
 - A system of professional standards for early childhood education. These include:
 - Association of Christian Schools International (ASCI)
 - Council on Accreditation Early Education (COA)
 - National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
 - National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
 - National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)
- *How many quality providers are in Marion County?*
 - 123 quality providers at Level 3 or 4 on PTQ¹
 - 670 current open seats
 - 228 forecasted seats over the next year²

¹ Child Care Indiana. (2014). Retrieved from: <http://www.childcareindiana.org/childcareindiana/ptq-programs.cfm>.

- *How do families apply?*
 - Applications open in May 2015 for the school year starting Fall 2015
 - Families can apply for scholarships through UWCI or several different referral and human service agencies
 - If eligible, families will be notified and choose a preschool provider and length of care (full day or half day) from a list of qualified providers
 - The UWCI will pay for tuition directly to the provider upon proof of enrollment
- *Which referral agencies can families go to in order to apply?*
 - The United Way of Central Indiana
 - Child Care Answers
 - The Children's Bureau

Early Childhood Provider Grant program

- *What is the Early Childhood Provider Grant program?*
 - The Early Childhood Provider Grant program is a grant opportunity for quality preschool providers to obtain funds.
 - The funds can be used to build capacity in ways such as building renovations, purchasing curriculum, and training teachers.
 - All applications for funding will go through a transparent and competitive process.
- *How do providers apply?*
 - Applications open beginning January 2015 and are accepted on a rolling basis.
 - Providers will complete an application and submit them to UWCI
 - The Advisory Commission will conduct a primary review of all submitted applications
 - A review session, open to the public, will be held quarterly to discuss recommendations. All applications will also be made publicly available.
 - Following open review, the Executive Committee will ratify all recommendations.
 - The UWCI will disburse funds within 4 weeks to award winners
- *Who is on the Advisory Commission?*
 - Members of the Commission include: key funders, City-County Councilors, Mayor's Office staff, early childhood education policy experts, and UWCI leadership

Funding the Mayor's Preschool Plan

- *What does the funding breakdown look like?*
 - \$10 million per year comes from
 - The City will invest \$5 million per year
 - Leveraging the State's pre-K pilot provides \$3 million per year.
 - Lilly is providing a private investment of \$2 million per year.
- *Where does the money come from?*
 - A sustainable funding source to support the Mayor's Preschool Plan is still pending review by the City-County Council.

Paths to QUALITY™ (PTQ)

- *What is Paths to QUALITY™?*

² Kids Count Data Center. A Project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Retrieved from: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>



- Indiana's Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System
- Provides families with an easy-to-recognize tool for selecting a child care program
- Each level builds on the foundation of the previous one, resulting in significant quality improvements at each stage and in national accreditation at the highest level. The system validates child care programs for ongoing efforts to achieve higher standards of quality and provides incentives and awards for success.³
 - Level One: Health and safety needs of children met
 - Level Two: Environment supports children's learning
 - Level Three: Planned curriculum guides child development and school readiness
 - Level Four: National accreditation (the highest indicator of quality) is achieved
- *How was Paths to QUALITY™ created?*
 - PTQ was created by the Child Care and Early Education Partnership in 2000 and introduced statewide in 2008
 - In 2007, Indiana's Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning, under the FSSA, contracted with Purdue University to evaluate the validity of Paths to QUALITY™⁴
- *Where can I learn more?*
 - Visit the official [Paths to QUALITY™](#) site for more information.

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)

- *What is CCDF?*
 - The [Child Care Development Fund](#) is a federal program that helps low-income families obtain childcare so they can work, attend training, or continue their education.
- *Who is eligible for CCDF?*
 - Parents must be employed or in school
 - Children must be under the age of 13, unless qualified and documented to have special needs
- *How is CCDF distributed?*
 - The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) oversees program
 - Families contact their local intake agent then choose an eligible provider
 - CCDF vouchers are distributed to families to use at approved provider
 - Families are eligible for more CCDF funds if they choose higher quality PTQ providers⁵

Miscellaneous

- *What about Head Start? Don't the benefits of early childhood education just fade out over time?*
 - While some observable academic benefits fade over time, the facts are clear: quality early childhood education has a positive and lasting impact on a student's social and behavioral success.
 - Academic related: decreased grade repetition, expulsions/suspensions, special education needs, and increased graduation rates
 - Economic: increased earnings, family stability, employment, and decreased welfare dependency

³ Child Care Indiana. (2014). Retrieved from: <http://www.childcareindiana.org/childcareindiana/ptq.cfm>

⁴ Family and Social Services Administration. (2014). Retrieved from: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/pathstoquality/3764.htm>

⁵ Children's Bureau. Retrieved from: <http://www.childrens-bureau.org/what-we-do/child-care-development-fund-ccdf>

Every child in every neighborhood deserves access to an education that enables them to define their own life path.



- Behavioral: fewer problem behaviors in the 1st grade, reduced rates of juvenile arrest
- Health: improved overall child health status, reduced rates of preventable disease⁶
- Decades of research and landmark studies such as the High/Scope Perry Preschool Project, the Chicago Parent Centers, and the Abecedarian Project show that positive effects remain through age forty.⁷
- *How is Indiana's pre-K pilot similar or different from Florida's model?*
 - Similarities
 - Voluntary
 - Providers must administer kindergarten readiness assessment
 - Families have the flexibility to choose from different provider types, including private and public schools, licensed centers, ministries, and homes.
 - Differences
 - Florida's program provides either a half-day school year (540 hours), a 180-day school-year (540 hours), or a 90-day summer program (300 hours) for free to all 4-year-old children. Indiana's program provides for children living in poverty up to 127% FPL.
 - Florida spends \$2,242 per child, Indiana will spend between \$2,500-\$6,800
 - Indiana's pilot requires providers to have parental engagement component⁸
- *Is it a constitutional issue to give public dollars to registered ministries?*
 - Indiana tax dollars may be used to finance private school tuition by parent choice under the school voucher program in grades K-12
 - In *Meredith v. Pence* (March 26, 2013), Indiana Supreme Court upheld a decision by Marion County Superior Court judge who ruled the voucher program constitutional in January 2012.⁹
 - *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris* (June 2002), U.S. Supreme Court ruled for that Ohio's use of school vouchers did not violate the Establishment clause.¹⁰
 - Registered ministries already receive state and federal funding through CCDF

⁶ Benefits of Head Start and Early Head Start Programs. National Head Start Association. Retrieved from: http://www.nhsa.org/files/static_page_files/399E0881-1D09-3519-AD56452FC44941C3/BenefitsofHSandEHS.pdf

⁷ Center for Public Education. Retrieved from: <http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/Main-Menu/Pre-kindergarten/Pre-Kindergarten>

⁸ Florida Early Learning. Retrieved from: http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/sites/www/Uploads/ADA_Compliant-2013-VPK_General_FactSheet.pdf

⁹ *Meredith v. Pence*. (2013). Retrieved from: <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/opinions/pdf/03261301bd.pdf>

¹⁰ *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris*. (2002). Retrieved from: <http://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/536/639/case.html>

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State of Indiana's Early Education Grant Pilot Program FAQ

- *How does the Governor's Pre-K pilot work?*
 - House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1004, signed into law by Governor Mike Pence on March 27, 2014, establishes a pilot program to provide grants to eligible children for qualified education services.
 - An eligible child is:
 - At least 4 years of age and less than five on August 1 of the state fiscal year for which a grant is sought under the program
 - Is a resident of Indiana or otherwise has legal settlement
 - Is a member of a household with an annual income that does not exceed 137% of the federal poverty level
 - Receives qualified early education services from an eligible provider as determined by the office
 - Has a parent or guardian who participates in a parental engagement and involvement component provided by provider
 - Has a parent or guardian who agrees to ensure that the child meets the attendance requirements determined by the office
 - The program could serve between 2,200-6,000 children depending on program design
- *How much money do families receive?*
 - Statute permits a per-child grant amount between \$2,500-\$6,800
 - Parents may choose a voucher for a half-day (\$3,400) or a full-day (\$6,800) preschool program
 - Funds will be deployed to the eligible provider by the office upon enrollment of the child by the family
 - In total, \$10 million will be provided statewide with no more than \$1 to be spent on an evaluation of the program
- *Who runs the program?*
 - The Pre-Kindergarten Pilot Program will be administered by the Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning (OECOSL)
 - OECOSL is currently working on eligibility requirements, application process, selection process, administration and reporting, which applicants will be awarded the grant, and the amount of each grant.

Provider eligibility

- *What is an eligible provider?*
 - HEA 1004 defines an eligible provider as:
 - Public school, including a charter school
 - Child care center licensed under IC 12-17.2-4
 - Child care home licensed under IC 12-17.2-5
 - Child care ministry registered under IC 12-17.2-6
 - That all must meet the standards of quality recognized by a Level 3 or Level 4 paths to QUALITY program rating OR
 - A school that is accredited by the state board of education or a national or regional accreditation agency that is recognized by the state board of education
 - Providers will need to apply to OECOSL to be deemed eligible

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 - National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)
 - National School Age Care Alliance (NSACA) Accreditation
 - Voluntary Certification Program (VCP)
- *How many quality providers are in Marion County?*
 - 125 quality providers at Level 3 or 4 on PTQ¹¹
 - 670 current open seats
 - 228 forecasted seats over the next year¹²

Family eligibility

- *How many children are eligible in Marion County?*
 - 14,000 four-year-olds¹³
 - 5,000 live below 100% FPL assuming 37% of children in Marion County live in poverty¹⁴
 - 8,000 live below 185% FPL (qualify for free/reduced lunch)¹⁵
- *Who qualifies for the money that we are appropriating?*
 - Families under 127% FPL or about \$27,000 household annual income for a family of 4
 - Dollars will go to the providers based on the chosen site
 - Parents must also agree to parental engagement and meeting attendance requirements
 - Fund follow the child and are provided to the eligible providers

¹¹ Child Care Indiana. (2014). Retrieved from: <http://www.childcareindiana.org/childcareindiana/ptq-programs.cfm>.

¹² Kids Count Data Center. A Project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Retrieved from: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

¹³ United States Census Bureau. American Fact Finder. Retrieved from: http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_10_SF1_QTP2

¹⁴ Kids Count Data Center. A Project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Retrieved from: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/5650-children-in-poverty-by-age-group?loc=16&loct=3#detailed/3/65/false/868,867,133,38,35/17,18,36/12263,12264>.

¹⁵ Family and Social Services Administration. (2014) Retrieved from: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/files/Data-AllCounties.pdf>